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AH to order removal of docks

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

The Township of Algonquin Highlands will order the removal of docks placed by residents on some pieces of public property, the docks in some cases having been installed for many years.

Township councillors decided what should be done in such situations during a lengthy discussion during a Nov. 19 meeting.

A report from township planner Sean O'Callaghan detailed one location at the intersection of Dawson Road and North Shore Road, where, for years, two docks have been placed, reaching out into Maple Lake. "These docks were constructed for the benefit of a group of non-waterfront property owners on Dawson Road," the report read. "These docks have existed for several years. Staff have discussed this matter with legal counsel and a legal opinion on the matter has been provided and is attached to this report for council consideration."

The report also indicated concerns regarding liability.

"The construction of these structures on

see LICENCE page 4



Social distancing with Santa

Aurora and Jadyn Hamilton get a chance to chat with Santa Claus at Christmas in the Village at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Saturday, Nov. 21. The event included a chance to visit local vendors, sample delicious holiday treats and meet St. Nick. In the evening, a special German Christmas inspired event was held with lights around the heritage village lit up. See more photos on page 3. /JENN WATT Staff

Tourism industry experience varied during pandemic

by DARREN LUM
Times Staff

The province's message during the pandemic has been to stay close to home and spend your money at the store and restaurant down the road.

This message was endorsed during the summer with a day visit by Minister for Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Lisa MacLeod, who stopped at the Haliburton Sculpture Forest and Minden Whitewater Preserve.

Amanda Virtanen, director of tourism for Haliburton County, said she's continuing to

follow the province's lead in directing efforts to draw people from nearby areas, which now includes seasonal residents

"We're focusing on hyper-local marketing ... so really what our locals can do over the winter and that includes new cottages or people who are staying here over the winter,

see COUNTY page 2

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County focuses on hyper-local marketing

from page 1

who didn’t used to stay over the winter,” she said. “So, one of the programs that we developed is this date night program.”

Local businesses provide customers with special packages and offers. Virtanen said listings of who and what is coming up will be included in the tourism department’s newsletter to give people something to do on the weekends and evenings. The program isn’t just for couples.

“We use the term ‘date’ loosely. It can be something you go out and do with your girlfriends, or it could be something you go out and do with parents. We’re not aiming this program at middle-aged couples per se,” she said.

Other kinds of community events or initiatives being promoted include the recently held full-day event Christmas in the Village at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, online contests or the upcoming Hike Haliburton Winter Edition in February.

Virtanen said specific numbers are difficult to collect, but she did gain some insight about businesses with a survey of 50 respondents, which represented accommodations, food, retail and experiential provider industries about how the months of June to August have gone.

Thirty-eight per cent of the respondents saw more visitors than last year, but 32 per cent saw fewer while 34 per cent of respondents experienced greater revenue than last year compared to 40 per cent who saw less. It’s worth noting 41 per cent of the respondents cited “insufficient staff” limited capacity to do business this summer. Thirty per cent of respondents said they were on track

in September to be up over September 2019.

Restaurants spent some of the pandemic fulfilling takeout orders only and have been hampered in their revenue-generating ability due to restrictions on number of customers permitted in their establishments.

Retailers such as Glecoff Family Store had a summer that was close to equal to other years Clay Glecoff has experienced as co-owner and as an employee when his father ran the store as V&S Stedmans.

However, what’s surprised Glecoff is a significant increase in sales the past few months compared to the last 10 years, which he called a “pleasant surprise.”

“Typically, this time of year like September, October and mid-November is a bit of a lull, but we didn’t see any slowdown. It’s almost like the summer didn’t end, but we’re not doing summer numbers, but it kind of felt that way,” he said.

He adds it wasn’t twice as much as usual, but it will help to float the business through the winter, which is typically quiet.

The key to this success, he said, comes down to a greater number of people coming into the store, which he runs with his wife, Amy. Customers are seasonal residents and locals.

“I think you’re going to see more people buying locally. I don’t think you’re going to see as many locals rip to the mall. They’re not going to go to the city. I think you’re going to see a lot of the mom and pop shops in town like the gift shop and those guys, I think everyone’s going to do better,” he said.

He said he has a feeling that many people believe it’s safer to shop here than in urban centres that have higher COVID-19 numbers.

Despite lower attendance due to pandemic

restrictions, those running local cultural attractions are optimistic as they see new visitors coming to the area for day trips.

Laurie Carmount of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre said, “We had a small but steady flow of attendance but much less than past years. Really nice to see people out and I think they were appreciative of our efforts to have a safe space. We had new visitors, people who were making the Highlands their home during this time, which may become permanent.”

At the Haliburton Highlands Museum, director Kate Butler pointed out how comparing this past summer to any other is like “comparing apples to oranges.”

“We were keeping numbers in the main gallery quite restricted, but the flip side was that we connected with so many people at the museum’s farmstead and our other outdoor spaces in the park. We re-opened to visitors in early July and just saw a steady increase of visitors over the summer, with the autumn also being very busy with people looking for combined indoor/outdoor activities. We also saw a huge increase in day trippers to the area (people coming up from the GTA and even further afield) and I think that in terms of tourism, that’s going to be really beneficial in the long run. Those people who had a great short visit were consistently saying that they’d be interested in making a longer visit to the area in the future ...”

Next door, the Sculpture Forest’s Jim Blake said it was a strong season for visitation.

He estimated there were 20,000 visitors over a 16-week period based on an assumption that there are four visitors for every guide map taken, how one in 10 groups he encountered used the self-guided tour app and an average of 50 residents each day who visit to take dog walks, go on hikes and rides, don’t ever take a guide book.

“I actually think this is a conservative estimate – over the three days of Thanksgiving [weekend] we received the same amount of donations that we received for the whole summer in the previous year (we now have four donations boxes as opposed to one – but it is still a dramatic difference),” he wrote in an email. “Although the college was closed all summer, on Saturdays the college parking lot was full of cars – visitors to the Sculpture Forest. I met a lot of groups of people who

came to Haliburton from the GTA just for the day to see the Sculpture Forest,” he wrote, referring to the Haliburton School of Art + Design.

The draw for urban and local visitors to get outside proved favourable for recreation operators, both private and public.

Tegan Legge, the general manager of the Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve, didn’t have exact figures, but said the number of people who visited this year “significantly increased.”

After the disappointment of a premature finish to the 2020 season for Winterdance Dogsled Tours because of COVID-19, they saw great success with “record-setting bookings up to this point in the year for the coming operating season, which has been primarily visitors from within Ontario due to travel restriction.”

Chris Card, manager of parks, recreation and trails for Algonquin Highlands, said following a decrease in numbers in May (when the first wave appeared to peak), growth has matched national trends. Revenue compared to 2019 bear this out: May saw a decrease of 154 per cent, but there were increases for June with 173 per cent, July 121 per cent, August 61 per cent, September 77 per cent and then October six per cent.

He said on average since the start of the water trails program in 2006 there has been a steady growth of revenue and attendance about eight to 15 per cent annually.

“We will see how November and December turns out but typically these are not camping seasons, rather most people are hiking at those times,” he wrote in an email. “The increases are higher month over month than we have seen, I have been watching what is happening in this industry across the country and it appears to be a trend nation-wide.”

Card said he attributes growth to people looking for vacation options closer to home.

“We have a lot of return visitors and this year [I] have noticed a lot of new faces and people are telling us that they are taking the opportunity to get into camping, a great social distancing friendly activity. Outdoor retailers have been experiencing higher than average sales in camping gear and we are seeing the result. Will the trend continue after COVID? Only time will tell,” he wrote.



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Haliburton	KawarthaLakes	Northumberland	

Total Confirmed Cases to Date			
25	192	71	288
Haliburton (HAL)	Kawartha Lakes (CKL)	Northumberland (NTH)	HKPRDHU

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County							
County	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases
Haliburton	2	23	3	0	1	0	0
Kawartha Lakes	1	172	14	0	11	19	13
Northumberland	12	58	24	0	4	1	0

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths, HKPRDHU							
All Counties	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases
HKPRDHU	15	253	41	0	16	20	13

No new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County were reported Nov. 24. The total local case count is 25, with 23 of those cases being resolved. Currently, three high-risk contacts in Haliburton County are listed on the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit website. In Kawartha Lakes, one case of COVID-19 is not resolved, while in Northumberland, 12 cases of COVID-19 are not resolved. /Screenshot from HKPR District Health Unit website



Cultural centre volunteer Carolyn Perks was a picture of holiday cheer as she sold baked goods and tickets for hot chocolate and hot apple cider, raising funds for the centre. Although it wasn't possible to have the annual Festival of Trees this year, the Christmas in the Village event allowed the community to come together and share some holiday spirit safely.



Christmas in the Village

Charlotte Gilbert and her mom check out the homemade chocolate ornaments at the Sucré Confectionary booth at the Christmas in the Village event in Minden on Saturday. Chocolatier Tatyana Antonyan was there to speak to customers about her creations as was her mother-in-law, Minden resident Caroline Bahr. /JENN WATT Staff



Elaine Repath serves up hot drinks including hot chocolate, apple cider and coffee to help warm hands and get visitors in the holiday spirit.

Shontel, left, and Alex Neville were all smiles - especially Shontel! - as they sold their wares at the Christmas in the Village event. Their whole supply of 64 hot chocolate bombs sold out by noon, but they still had plenty of other items for sale. The Little Miss Crafts A Lot booth will be at the Haliburton Legion on Dec. 5 for their craft fair.



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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice.

Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

November 26 – Council Meeting

December 10 – Council Meeting

Please note Council Meetings are reduced to one (1) meeting a month in December.

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process.

Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINDEN HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Always stay in the kitchen while cooking. If you must leave, turn off the stove.

Keep an eye on any drinkers in your household and make sure all cigarettes are properly extinguished and the stove is off before going to bed. Cigarettes can smoulder among upholstered items for hours before igniting. Check sofas and chairs for cigarettes that may have fallen between the cushions. Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

RECYCLING TIP OF THE WEEK

Drink pouches, chip bags, straws and disposable cutlery are not recyclable. Please place these items in your garbage. For a full list of items that can be recycled, please visit www.mindenhills.ca/landfill.

SAFE WINTER DRIVING

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CHRISTMAS TOY DROP DRIVE THRU

Support our community this holiday season by donating non-perishable food items and new, unwrapped children's toys to the Minden Food Bank Christmas Hamper Program.

Donations can be dropped off at the Minden Hills Community Centre (upper parking lot) on Sat Dec 5th between 9:30 AM and 3:30 PM.

This is a drive thru drop off. Please place items on tables set up outside the Community Centre doors. Volunteers will watch for and collect the items for the hampers. Tables will be sanitized between drop offs.

Items in need this year include toys for all ages and gift cards for teenagers.

MINDEN FOOD BANK CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROGRAM

The Minden Food Bank Annual Christmas Hamper Program application begins on Nov 30th. Apply for a hamper by calling the Food Bank at 705-286-6400 between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM from Nov 30th to Dec 4th and Dec 7th to Dec 11th.

Hampers can be picked up on Monday Dec 21st between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM at the Minden Community Centre.

NEW for this year: Hamper pick up will be a Drive-Thru format. When you arrive at the Minden Community Centre, a volunteer will direct you to a parking space. Please have the I.D for everyone listed on your application ready.

A volunteer will bring your Christmas Hamper and toys outside and place them on a designated table beside your vehicle. Please remain in your vehicle until all products have been placed on the table. Once completed, you may get out and pack your items into your vehicle (NOTE: if you require assistance to lift, please bring someone to help you).

In order to ensure COVID GUIDELINES are being followed, volunteers will not be allowed to load items into vehicles and community members will not be allowed to enter the building. We ask that everyone respect these guidelines and wait in their vehicles in the line-up.

Please note that there will be no used/new clothing available on hamper pick up day. A Christmas Boutique has been made available at the Food Bank on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM until December 20th.

For more information please contact the Foodbank at 705-286-6838

Licence of occupation considered

from page 1

township lands without express approval from the township is not permitted,” it read. “There is significant liability exposure to the township should there be an injury to occur while members of the public use these docks. Concerns with respect to unsafe parking of vehicles near the intersection of Dawson Road and North Shore Road to access the docks has also been raised.”

O’Callaghan’s report laid out two options for council – either having the users enter into a licence of occupation for the continued use of the docks, or for the township to take action to have the docks removed. It should be noted the discussion did not apply to situations where docks have been placed on township-owned shoreline road allowances adjacent to cottages and residences, and that council plans to have a future discussion regarding those situations.

There was some consideration of the concept of a licence of occupation for the continued use of docks in locations such as the intersection of Dawson Road and North Shore Road.

“I wouldn’t feel comfortable voting to have those docks removed today,” said Councillor Jen Dailloux, adding she was open to the idea of exploring a licensing agreement.

However, there was some concern that striking licensing agreements would lead to a trend of more docks in places where they’re not supposed to be.

“I don’t want to see this agreement mushroom into everyone putting in applications,”

said Councillor Lisa Barry, adding that if the existing docks were going to be grandfathered by the township, she did not want to see any new docks installed.

Chief administrative officer Angie Bird pointed out that the docks, while long-standing in some instances, were installed without any type of township permission.

“You’re looking at grandfathering an illegal use,” Bird said.

Mayor Carol Moffatt said there was no issue with residents using such areas for swimming, but said the problem for her came with the addition of infrastructure.

“This is not meant to rain on people’s parades,” Moffatt said. “. . . I understand that if you’ve been using a dock for many, many years, it feels like you’re being punished.”

Moffatt said she had heard from residents about some instances of being told by other residents that they were not permitted to use what is public property, and also pointed out that such locations are not equipped with washrooms or parking areas.

“There are access areas intended for access and day use,” Barry said, using Halls Lake’s Elvin Johnson Park as an example.

Ultimately council decided that the township would order the removal of docks in such locations. The details of how that notification process will work have not yet been finalized.

“There needs to be as robust a notification process that we can use,” said Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen, noting that it would be a large undertaking to figure out who owns all of the docks.

Haliburton County residents charged in drug bust

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Five Haliburton County residents have been charged with drug-related offences following a police raid at a residence along Bobcaygeon Road in Minden.

According to a press release from the OPP, members of the Haliburton Highlands detachment and City of Kawartha Lakes Street Crimes Unit executed a search warrant at the house on Nov. 12, and five county residents, along with two residents of the GTA, were charged with a variety of offences including drug possession for the purposes of trafficking and possession of items obtained by crime.

According to the release, a 36-year-old Minden woman, a 31-year-old Minden man, a 30-year-old Minden man, a 27-year-old woman from Algonquin Highlands, and 35-year-old Haliburton man were each charged with one count of possession of cocaine for the purposes of trafficking, and one count of possession of Fentanyl for the purposes of trafficking.

In addition, a 30-year-old man from Ajax and a 26-year-old man from Toronto were each charged with the same offences, as well as the possession of items obtained by crime, and in the case of the Ajax man, failure to comply with an undertaking.

According to the police, one individual was held on bail, while the others were released on undertakings and are scheduled to appear in court in Minden on Feb. 3.

Patients asked to take minor health issues to primary care providers first

Although COVID-19 numbers are low in Haliburton County, residents with minor health issues are being asked to continue to contact their primary care providers first, to lessen demand on local hospitals.

Requests such as medication renewal can be completed with a family doctor or nurse practitioner, often over the phone, said Dr. Norm Bottom of the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team.

“We are experiencing patients from the GTA going to ER to get medication renewals,” he said via email. “They can utilize their own MD and if they are organized they can

make sure they have a fax number for the local pharmacy they are using handy to make it easier for their MD.”

The emergency departments locally are busy, he said, “and given COVID protocols will be significantly pushed to keep up with the usual winter demand if it is significantly busier than usual.”

Weekly drive-in flu shot clinics are available at the Haliburton medical clinic for patients. They must be booked through the office 705-457-1212.

Staff

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Public to have their say on shoreline bylaw

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

The County of Haliburton will embark on a public input process for its draft shoreline protection bylaw, that process including a virtual public meeting amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In a nearly four-hour-long meeting on Nov. 23, county councillors continued work on the draft bylaw, which aims to preserve the quality of lake health in the county, sifting through the document section by section. The bylaw would restrict site alteration and the removal of vegetation within 30 metres of the high-water mark around waterbodies, and has stirred some controversy in the county among waterfront property owners, as well as members of the community's construction and landscaping industries.

During Monday's meeting, councillors also provided comments to staff on accompanying documents, a sort of Coles Notes version of the bylaw providing a list of what kinds of work residents would and would not require a permit for, and a shoreline self-assessment tool.

The next step in the process will be a public consultation. As the ongoing pandemic will not allow for a traditional public meeting, staff will organize a virtual public meeting, prospectively scheduled for late January, as well as solicit public feedback through an online survey tool such as Bang The Table, and the county's website. County planner Charley White said that staff members would also be available to speak with residents who do not use online communication.

A timeline laid out by White in her staff report had public consultation taking place throughout December and January, delegation of authority from the lower-tier townships to the county taking place in February, final approval of the bylaw by council in March, hiring of staff in April, and enforcement beginning in mid-April.

"I have some concerns around the timeline," said Algonquin



Haliburton County council discusses the county's draft shoreline protection bylaw during a special meeting on Nov. 23. /Screenshot

Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt, adding she wasn't sure it provided enough time for council to consider what could be a large amount of public feedback.

White said it had been her understanding from previous meetings that council wanted the bylaw enforceable by summer of 2021, agreed the timeline was ambitious, and said it could be changed if council so wished.

"I just want to make sure that we give ourselves ample time to be able to receive, review and ... ask for more or different information, from any of those input opportunities," Moffatt said, suggesting that council may require a separate meeting following the public meeting to discuss changes based on the feedback.

"I want to make sure that we don't end up saying, 'Yeah, we're on a timeline here, so we're just gonna get going.' How much time are we allowing ourselves to review any of that input? Because that's the whole point."

"If we get enough concerns or valid cautions brought to us during the process, then it would come back to us, and we would have to review it and consider it and make decisions as we go forward," said Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Danielsen. "Whatever time it takes. There are going to be things we hear and agree with, there will be things that we hear and disagree with, or can't do anything about for legislative reasons, so we'll have to wade through it all."

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A year of change

2020 HAS BEEN a year of many changes, and readers will notice some at the *Minden Times* and its sister publications starting next week.

After more than a decade as the managing editor of the *Times*, the *Haliburton County Echo*, and sister publications in Bancroft, Jenn Watt will be departing the newspapers to pursue new career opportunities.

A journalist with the papers for 13 years and managing editor for more than 11 of those, Jenn has guided the papers with steadfastness, grace under pressure, acute attention to detail, utter intelligence and a deep commitment to the community of Haliburton County.

Journalism is a challenging, often stressful and sometimes thankless vocation, and the community owes Jenn a huge degree of thanks for her many years of very hard work. There's what readers see on the pages of the newspapers – the writing and the photos – and then there are the countless hours of compiling page plans, editing and re-editing, fielding phone calls and emails, research, conducting interviews, covering meetings and events, managing websites and social media accounts, and making sometimes difficult decisions about editorial direction. It is often unglamorous work, often a slog, and only someone with an immense passion for the craft of journalism

and heartfelt dedication to community could do the job as long and as incredibly well as Jenn has. I often refer to the papers' editorial department as a well-oiled machine, and Jenn has been the engine of that machine for many years.

At the newspapers, there will be some reorganization on the editorial side of operations. Rather than having one overarching managing editor, in



CHAD INGRAM
Reporter

Bancroft, long-time reporter Nate Smelle will become editor of the papers there. Here in Minden, yours truly will become editor of the *Times*. In Haliburton, we'll be joined by a new team member, Mike Baker, an

experienced journalist who most recently was managing editor of the *Orangeville Citizen*, *Caledon Citizen* and *Shelburne Free Press* and will become editor of the *Echo*, as well as weekly publication *County Life*. Welcome to Mike.

2020 has demonstrated in many ways that life's only constant is change. And while change can be daunting, it also teaches us new things and allows us to grow. While sometimes painful, it is also sometimes necessary.

After a dozen years of working together, or nearly one third of both our lives, it's an understatement to say that I will miss Jenn, and I wish her all the best in her life's new direction.



This barred owl was right outside the window, writes Nancy Barnes. The photo was taken by Gord Barnes at East Moore Lake.

Thermoses aren't what they used to be

THE OTHER day I was in the outdoors with a buddy when his Thermos caught my eye. If nothing else, this served as a reminder that you should never throw Thermoses.

It also reminded me that, back in the old days, no one would ever dare throw a Thermos.

I know it is difficult for younger people to believe, but there was a time when the average outdoorsmen carried their Thermos like it was a thermo-nuclear device armed with hairpin triggers.

Which is to say, carefully.

That's because back in those simpler times, every Thermos had a glass insert. And, make no mistake, this was not shatter-proof glass either. It was glass so thin that, should an insect somehow make its way into your Thermos, it had a better than even chance of breaking out.

Young outdoors people have no idea what it is like to carry a Thermos so fragile. Modern ones are tough enough to run over with a truck, but when we were kids, the fragile kind was the only type of Thermos they made.

I suspect because they were good for business.

If I recall correctly, the average Thermos lasted for one to two duck hunts and sometimes as much as halfway through the first walk to school. You could break the glass by speaking in your outside voice.

Thermoses have come a very long way since then.

Recently, I was in a store that sold modern, engineered Thermoses and quickly realized that they have gotten a whole lot more

complicated too. Evidently, you're no longer buying just a Thermos, you are investing in a Thermos system. And, also in the many wonderful decals that come with them.

The Thermos I ended up buying put a dent in my budget for the next few years to come. And it didn't even come with a cup. No, the cup was a separate purchase that you get when you invest in the pouring spout system. You could also buy slide lids, straw lids, and handles. Mine comes standard with what

the company calls a chug cap – which is what we used to call an opening when we didn't know any better.

Interestingly enough, this new Thermos actually keeps drinks as warm or as cold as they were when they were initially poured in. That's another improvement from the Thermoses we had as kids and young hunters.

You see, the Thermoses of our youth only kept drinks warm for

as long as it took to break the glass insert. As for cold drinks, sometimes you would even see that they had ice in them. But the first sip revealed that was just the broken glass.

The old school Thermoses are probably the reason why I never took to carrying coffee, soup, or any other drink with me in the field. But, when I saw these tough and efficient new Thermoses, I thought that maybe I ought to buy one for myself and see what I've been missing all these years.

It turns out I have been missing broken glass mostly.

In any case, as costly as it is, this new one will likely be the last Thermos I will ever need – or will ever be able to afford, I suppose.

But it was totally worth it. Next week, I'm hoping it will catch my buddy's eye.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

America and The Old Man and the Sea

MY FINGERS caress a well-aged copy of the novel *The Old Man and the Sea*. I thumb to the first page. "He was an old man who fished alone in a skiff in the Gulf of Mexico and he had gone eighty-four days without taking a fish," read the first words of Ernest Hemingway's 1952 masterpiece.

Those first words are so simple and honest, as are the 26,967 words that follow to describe an old fisherman's battle with a huge fish, and with life.

Millions of other words have been written about the novel's meaning and its messages.



JIM POLING SR.
From Shaman's Rock

But today the novel has, for me, new meaning and a new message.

A quick recall of the novel's story line: Santiago, the old fisherman, has gone to sea 84 days without catching a fish. On the 85th, he catches his dream – an 18-foot-long marlin. Food for an entire village.

Santiago plays the fish with his hands, gripping the fishing line and tightening and slackening the tension as needed. If he ties the line to the boat the fish will snap it and escape. Holding the line leaves his hands bloody and his body exhausted.

He fights the fish for hours, then wins the battle. He ties the fish body against the side of his skiff and sets

course for home.

Then the sharks come. By the time he reaches the beach, the sharks have reduced the fish to a skeleton. Santiago fought to secure his dream, but lost it to the sharks.

As I reread this remarkable story, I see it much differently than I did many years ago. I now see Santiago as the American people; the great fish is the American dream rooted in a Declaration of Independence proclaiming everyone is created equal with the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Many fought to secure that dream, but it is being lost. Sharks are consuming it.

Once the world's most powerful and most promising nation, the United States has become yet another country of confused people unable to overcome increasingly difficult problems.

Racism, supposedly banished by civil war almost 150 years ago, remains a significant feature of U.S. life. White supremacy and other far right-wing philosophies gain prominence instead of being buried once and for all.

The U.S. has become a country of anger, loud shouting and self pity. A country of fortified zones sealed off by armed forces and fences. The White House, a symbol of government for the people, by the people, is cordoned off by two miles of fencing.

More serious is a loss of morality. That is evidenced in the COVID pandemic, which Americans have allowed to run rampant, infecting more than 12 million people and killing more than 250,000 people in less than nine months.

A stunning example of vanishing morality is seen in a lightly-reported study of what is happening in U.S. jails and prisons during the pandemic.

By last week almost 200,000 jailed Americans had tested positive for COVID. Last week alone almost 14,000 new cases were reported in U.S. prisons and jails, an eight-per-cent increase over the previous week.

The statistics were gathered by The Marshall Project, a non-profit news organization covering criminal justice, and the Associated Press.

The COVID-19 case rate for U.S. prisoners is believed to be five to six times higher than the overall U.S. population case rate. That is because of jail crowding, less access to medical attention and disinterest.

It is also a manifestation of a trend to jail more Black people and more poor people and to care less for them because they are considered criminals deserving less than society's "decent" folks.

This is not the America my grandfather and his family left when the Great Cloquet, Minnesota fire burned them out many decades ago. It is not the America that his ancestors helped to build when they arrived from England in the early 1600s.

Can that America be restored?

The Old Man and the Sea offers some hope.

"Man is not meant for defeat," Santiago tells himself after the sharks attack his marlin. "A man can be destroyed but not defeated."

The America my family knew is being destroyed, but will the spirit of the American people be defeated?

letters to the editor

T-shirt sales feed families

To the Editor,

Minden Food Centre would like to thank a young university woman who has shown great initiative and a willingness to assist those less fortunate. Due to COVID-19 pandemic there are so many more struggling with financial hardship, uncertain employment and worried about their families.

We received a call from this young woman

who created her own T-shirt business with an email address of emilewdesigns@hotmail.com. From the proceeds from selling Boshkung Strong T-shirts she made a donation in excess of \$1,000 to Minden Food Centre.

Joanne Barnes
Manager, Minden Community Food Centre

Comfort zone

THE TERM comfort zone is used quite a bit these days. One definition I found for it is: A place or situation where one feels safe or at ease and without stress. That makes perfect sense and what a great place to spend time. Or is it? COVID-19 is pushing us to the edges of our comfort zones in many ways, making this a perfect time to take a hard look at the limits we have and potentially push 'em out a bit!

What if comfort (and convenience) is actually making us sick? I believe it is. Our physical and mental health have been compromised since the moment we started valuing "leisure" time. Think about that for a moment. I remember getting up to answer the telephone. Sometimes racing my sister to get there. I also remember doing the dishes by hand (hated it) and learning how to boil water to cook potatoes. Actually, I think I was boiling the water to cook hot dogs. Growing up, hot dogs were my favourite food. Here I am sharing that with everyone. At the time, they were one of the few processed foods that could be purchased. Wow, have things changed – all in the name of comfort and convenience.

There is so much to review when it comes to the comfort zones that we find

ourselves in, so I'm going to tackle this topic in four separate articles. This is the first article. The following three articles will go into detail with regards to movement, nutrition and rest. Each article will provide you with a challenge. Here's the first one:

- Over the next week observe your behaviours.
- Make note of the times that you feel comfortable.
- Make note of the times that you feel uncomfortable.
- Think about changes that you might like to make to either of those situations.

I would suggest actually writing down the observations that you make. Be sure to leave any type of judgment out of the comments. That's not the purpose of this exercise. The intent is to develop self awareness and that process provides an opportunity to build strength in all areas of life. Right now, we need all of the strength that we can get.

Be sure to tune in next week! Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.



LAURIE SWEIG
Practical Fitness

Nonfie Pick - November



Custom Shawls by Kate Atherley and Kim McBrien Evans

Co-authored by local author, crafter and Indigo Dragonfly business owner Kim McBrien Evans, this book aims to arm knitters with the skills they need to create shawls with wraps of all shapes and sizes, and to help them forge their own shawl-knitting paths. *Custom Shawls* includes tips and tutorials for beginner and intermediate knitters alike, addressing technical aspects from shaping or adapting stitch patterns, to making colour and fabric choices. A gallery of over a dozen patterns in three useful stages (beginner, intermediate, and creative/custom) using a variety of yarns, both mainstream and indie, provides knitters with inspiration for creating and customizing their own unique designs. Featuring both classic

and luxury yarn, Atherley and McBrien Evans provide a 360-degree view of the shawl-creation process from design to finished knit. Check it out from Haliburton County Public Library today, and get cozy making something cozy!

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**Highlands
Christmas Shindig**



AH to host virtual Christmas tree lighting

by **CHAD INGRAM**
Times Staff

Algonquin Highlands residents will be able to tune into Zoom for a virtual Christmas tree lighting celebration featuring members of council and scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 9.

During a Nov. 19 meeting, councillors discussed what such an event might look like, and who would be invited to take part during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Normally, annual tree-lighting community celebrations take place in Oxtongue Lake and Dorset.

"Instead, we came up with a virtual event where we would like to be able to essentially host a tree-lighting, using [online conferencing app] Zoom," parks, rec and trails manager Chris Card told councillors. As Card explained, the idea would be to have tree lightings in Oxtongue Lake and Dorset, as well as Stanhope, featuring councillors in each of their wards, an address from the mayor, carol-singing led by a local musician, perhaps a visit from Santa Claus, etc.

Card said it was recommended that members of township advisory committees also be invited to physically attend the events, but that a wider public invitation to the community not take place.

"Admittedly, having a bunch of people in any location makes me a bit nervous given that we have worked so hard to not offer those opportunities," said Mayor Carol Moffatt.

"There has been appetite at Oxtongue Lake for a reduced, socially distanced, COVID-responsible gathering during the tree lighting," said Ward 3 Councillor Jen Dailloux, adding the longstanding event is a highlight of the season for many residents.

"It's one of those opportunities where being COVID-responsible is possible," Dailloux said, making reference to the outdoor nature of the event and suggesting that attendees could arrive at scheduled, staggered times, making their way to hula hoops set out in the snow, indicating where to stand. "It's one of the few opportunities where an outdoor event might be possible, with in fact

limited movement."

Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen said that ultimately she couldn't support having groups of people assemble.

"We're seeing increasing numbers by the day," Danielsen said. "Haliburton County is extremely fortunate in remaining in a green zone [under the province's COVID-19 restrictions framework], and it's just this kind of activity that, no matter how carefully planned it is, when you gather a large number of people together . . . there's so many risks associated."

"Personally, I just can't support a gathering at a time when the numbers are increasing so rapidly in Ontario," Danielsen said.

Numbers of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the province have climbing toward 1,600 per day, while in the county, at press time, the total number of confirmed cases since the pandemic began is 25, 23 of them considered resolved.

"My concern with Councillor Dailloux's request is that we have to do the same thing in all three communities," Moffatt said, adding that Dorset and Stanhope were more populated than Oxtongue Lake. ". . . The more that are involved in terms of public attendance, to me, just creates more logistical challenges for a smooth event."

Dailloux said there have been other events where pre-registration is required, and limits are put on the number of attendees. A children's Halloween party at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre last month worked in that fashion.

"We aren't allowing our committees to meet," said Danielsen, referencing the fact that township advisory committee meetings have been suspended since the pandemic began. "So if they can't meet for the business of council, how can we say that they can meet under other circumstances? Inside or outside, you know, I've got an issue with adding too many people."

Ultimately, after a lengthy conversation, it was decided that the event would basically include councillors and staff.

"I think it's the best way, given the circumstances," said Councillor Lisa Barry.

AH purchases trails office property from province

by **CHAD INGRAM**
Times Staff

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is buying the piece of land that houses its trails office from the provincial government.

That office sits along Highway 35 south of Dorset at St. Nora Lake, part of the former Frost Centre complex. And while the provincial government, through Crown corporation Infrastructure Ontario, recently commercially listed 40 acres of the former Frost Centre for sale for \$1.1 million, Mayor Carol Moffatt noted during a Nov. 19 council meeting that the township had been working on the deal to purchase the trails office property long before that development.

A report from chief administrative officer Angie Bird indicated the township has been working since 2013 to purchase the triangular, one-acre piece of property that houses the trails office, a facility the township has

leased from the provincial government since 2005, in a lease agreement that would expire in 2025.

"The Order in Council to purchase the property was received in 2019, and Ministry of Infrastructure staff have been given the direction to expedite the sale of the triangular piece of land where the trails office is located," Bird's report read. "The sale includes an easement for the hiking trail which runs along the shore and onto the Frost Centre lands."

Council had already given its approval of the purchase in closed session – the acquisition or disposition of land is one of the permitted reasons municipal councils may take a meeting in-camera – and the direction given at last week's meeting was to approve the signing of the purchase agreement.

It will cost the township just less than \$250,000, and about half of that amount will come from a reserve fund that was set up for the purchase of the trails office following the township's sale of Club 35 a number of years ago.

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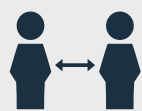
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Marc and Cyndi Wilkens, with son Liam, are the new owners of Minden Mercantile & Feed Co. Inc., and are joined by daughter Cienna and employees Sheri Hullah, back left, and Madie Payne. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

New owners take reins at Minden Mercantile

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Marc and Cyndi Wilkens are excited about their purchase of Minden Mercantile & Feed Co. Inc. and getting to know the community.

The deal on the business at the intersection of Bobcaygeon and Deep Bay Roads closed in early November.

"We've been coming here as customers for years, and we'd been looking for a business to buy," Marc says.

The couple live south of Kinmount where they have a hobby farm, moving from the Newmarket area about eight years ago, and have two children – daughter Cienna and son Liam.

"What we love about the name Minden Mercantile, you look up the mercantile from days past, that's where the locals always went for all the things they needed, whether you needed sewing needles or feed for your cows," Marc says.

"It has such a history, just the word," says Cyndi.

They've been busy getting to know their customers, and have plans to expand the building, as well as product inventory.

"Over the past few weeks, I've been spending a lot of time talking to customers, understanding what they do, what makes them tick, why they are buying from here," Marc says. "Such a diverse group of people. They have such interesting stories."

One customer, for example, buys birdseed that she uses to make art.

"Everybody has a story," says Cyndi. Her own unique story includes a battle with necrotizing fasciitis, or flesh-eating disease, which led to the loss of her limbs nearly a decade ago. Cyndi has authored a book about her journey and is a motivational speaker, and the couple help families in crisis through their ministry, Shine On Missions. The Wilkens also have backgrounds in business, Cyndi in product management and Marc in sales, and farming also runs in the family, with Marc's father a farmer and veterinarian.

They plan to add more products that complement home-steading, gardening and beekeeping.

"There's such an avid birdwatching community here," Marc says. "We want to expand what we offer there. We love animals, we love the outdoors, we love farming."

The couple is also excited to get to know residents of Minden, and comment on the village's beauty.

"We want to help drive traffic in downtown Minden," Marc says. "This is such a unique downtown community. I remember the first time coming here, driving and seeing the river right beside the road going right through the downtown, and I'm like, what a beautiful, majestic little town."

The Wilkens purchased Minden Mercantile from Kelly Pearce, who ran it for close to decade.

"I want to express my thanks to all my lovely customers," Pearce told the *Times*. "We have the best customers in the county, and I'm going to miss them too. I hope they'll continue to support Marc and his family."

The Wilkens will be running the business along with employees Madie Payne, Sheri Hullah and Leanne Hunt.



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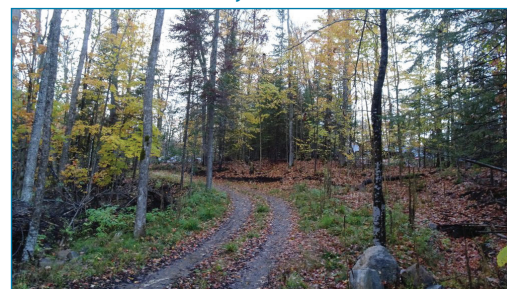
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See the Warranty Booklet or your dealer for details. [^] Visit onstar.ca for vehicle availability, coverage maps, details and system limitations. Services and connectivity vary by model and conditions as well as geographical and technical restrictions. 4G LTE service available in select markets. Requires active connected vehicle services and a data plan to access the vehicle's built-in Wi-Fi hotspot. Accessory Power must be active to use the Wi-Fi hotspot. Data plans provided by AT&T or its local service provider. Credit card is required for purchase.

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Costco Shop Cards will be mailed to the mailing address provided to Costco at the time of registration. The purchase or lease of a vehicle does not qualify for the calculation of the Costco Executive Membership 2% Reward. Offer may not be redeemed for cash. Conditions and limitations apply to this limited time offer. For full program details and for any applicable exclusions see a participating dealer or costco.ca and search "Shop Card". Tax, title, registration and license fees, personal property registration fees, and additional products and services are not included in the Costco Member Pricing. Offer is valid at participating authorized GM Canada dealers. Offer not available in the U.S. or Mexico. Offer is subject to change without notice. Void where prohibited. Costco and its affiliates do not sell automobiles nor negotiate individual transactions. [®] Registered trademark of Price Costco International, Inc. used under license. [^] Black Friday Bonus valid toward the retail purchase or lease of one eligible new in-stock 2020 or 2021 vehicles purchased and delivered in Canada between November 20th, 2020 and November 30th, 2020. Tax exclusive credits and allowances are manufacturer-to-dealer and are applied to vehicle purchase or lease at dealer discretion. Eligible 2020 models include: Chevrolet: Camaro, Bolt EV, Trax, Equinox, Blazer, Traverse, Tahoe, Suburban, Colorado, Silverado LD, Silverado HD. Eligible 2021 models include: Chevrolet: Camaro, Trailblazer, Trax, Equinox, Blazer, Traverse, Colorado, Silverado LD, Silverado HD. ² Offer available to qualified retail customers in Canada for vehicles purchased and delivered between November 3, 2020 to November 30, 2020. Lease based on suggested retail price of \$17,547, towards the lease of an eligible 2020 Spark LT model; includes \$950 Cash Delivery Allowance (tax exclusive); \$0 weekly payment is \$97 for 48 months at 1.9% lease rate (1.9% APR) on approved credit to qualified retail customers by GM Financial. The \$49 weekly payment is calculated by dividing the bi-weekly payments. Payments cannot be made on a weekly basis. Equivalent weekly payments are for informational purposes only. Annual kilometer limit of 20,000 km, \$0.16 per excess kilometer. \$500 down payment required. Payment may vary depending on down payment trade. Cost of borrowing is \$877 for a total obligation of \$10,485. Taxes, license, insurance, registration and applicable fees, levies, duties and, except in Quebec, dealer fees (all of which may vary by dealer and region) are extra. Option to purchase at lease end is \$37,147. ⁴ Offer available to qualified retail customers in Canada for vehicles purchased and delivered between November 3, 2020 to November 30, 2020. Tax exclusive credits and allowances are manufacturer-to-dealer and are applied to vehicle purchase or lease at dealer discretion. Void where prohibited. ⁵ Whichever comes first. Limit of four complimentary Lube-Oil-Filter services in total. Fluid top-offs, inspections, tire rotations, wheel alignments and balancing, etc., are not covered. See the Warranty Booklet or your dealer for details. ⁺ Whichever comes first. ^Δ Visit ontario.ca for vehicle availability, coverage maps, details and system limitations. Services and connectivity vary by model and conditions as well as geographical and technical restrictions. 4G LTE service available in select markets. Requires active connected vehicle services and a data plan to access the vehicle's built-in Wi-Fi hotspot. 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MINDEN TIMES

Help A Village Effort nears fundraising goal for 2020

Minden-based charity Help A Village Effort has been working with rural villages in India for nearly four decades, turning donations from Canada into clean water and hygiene resources through partnerships with trusted non-governmental organizations.

Funding in recent years has gone to the states of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and West Bengal on the east coast of India.

In 2020, while much of the world has been grappling with the coronavirus, the region of West Bengal had yet another challenge as Cyclone Amphan ripped through the east coast of the country, downing trees and power lines, killing more than 70 people in the province and causing about \$13 billion (USD) in damage.

“Amphan hit our area in the middle of May 2020,” said Biswajit Ghoroi, secretary of NGO Sarbik Gram Unnayan Sangha,

or SGUS. “The eastern part of our district (Purba Medinipur) was affected badly. Out of a total 25 blocks of our area district, 10 blocks were affected badly. A huge number of houses of poor people, shops, trees, roads, electric posts etc. were damaged.”

Pond water used by area residents was polluted after trees fell into them and some drinking water sources were affected.

In the aftermath of the cyclone, SGUS conducted relief work and heard from villagers that drinking water had become an issue. Many were affected by water-borne diseases.

Help A Village Effort is now raising money to help the people of West Bengal access clean drinking water. Five community wells, one school water supply, and three water filtration systems for high schools are to be installed, costing about \$24,000. To date,



The aftermath of Cyclone Amphan seen in Khejuri II block district East Midnapur. SGUS has a proposed water supply project in this area. Photo submitted by Biswajit Ghoroi

HAVE has raised \$19,000 of this total. Each well benefits between 250 and 300 people and each high school filtration system means clean water for 1,200 to 1,500 students.

“We are so blessed to have an abundance of clean drinking water just by turning on the tap and we need to help those who are less fortunate,” said Ron Reid, chair of HAVE. “Imagine your children or grandchildren attending a school without having fresh drinking water. Please help HAVE by donating whatever you can, to assist communities in West Bengal, India who have been devastated by the cyclones. Being able to have fresh drinking water has an incredible impact on their daily lives.”

HAVE has almost reached its goal; only \$5,000 more remains to be raised to move forward with this project.

Local members of the HAVE board including Reid, Paul Heffer, and Carolyn Langdon have made visits to India over the years to document HAVE-funded drinking water systems. HAVE was founded in 1982 in Minden and today has branches in Newfoundland and B.C.

Those interested in learning more can go to HelpAVillageEffort.org or email Ron Reid at re9id@interhop.net. A tax receipt will be issued for any donation of \$20 or more; donors can also donate using Canada Helps – a link to which is on the website. Cheques can be made payable to Help A Village Effort and mailed to P.O. Box 553, Minden, ON, K0M 2K0. E-transfers are also accepted, see details under “How you can help” on their website.

Submitted by Help A Village Effort



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden Poppy Campaign

The members and executive of the branch would like to thank members of the public and the many businesses of Minden Hills for their generous donations to our 2020 Poppy Campaign.

Your contributions will allow us to provide continued support for veterans, their families, seniors, the Minden Hospital and our local Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps.

Jim Ross
President Br. 636



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden REMEMBRANCE WREATH DONATIONS 2020

Due to COVID-19 restrictions we were unable to conduct the wreath laying ceremony at our Remembrance Day Service. Following is the list of those individuals and organizations that made arrangements in lieu of wreaths this year.

- Francine Newton In Memory of Syd Adamson
- Sonia Haliday and Paul Reng In Memory of Czeslaw Reng, Royal Air Force Polish Unit
- Dona Tion In Memory of Private Nelson Train, Army
- Don Veno (son) In Memory of Robert Veno, RC Navy
- Minden Girl Guides In Memory of William Carnochan and Edward Cole
- Minden Scouts Canada In Memory of Edward Cox and Herbert Cox
- Haliburton & Minden Paramedics In Memory of George Dack and Percy Gainer
- Ian Coltmén Jr In Memory of Ian Coltmén Sr, Army
- Ian Coltmén In Memory of Robert MacBrien
- HHHS Foundation (Lisa Tompkins) In Memory of Hobden and Joseph Howe
- Haliburton Appraisal Services In Memory of James Lewis and Samuel Little
- Mary Hamilton (niece) & John Walsh (nephew) In Memory of Sgt. Lyle Boice, Army
- Haliburton Community Funeral Home In Memory of Burt Fielding and Mervin Harrison
- Keith Koch In Memory of Franze Koch
- Tom Prentice (nephew) In Memory of James Redner

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Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 19

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Some in-school public health services on hold

by JENN WATT
Editor

Some vaccinations and screening programs typically administered in schools have been relocated to health unit offices or put on hold for the 2020/2021 school year, members of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District board of health were told at their meeting Nov. 19.

“We decided to put on hold some of our programming in school systems obviously because of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Dr. Lynn Noseworthy, medical officer of health.

Vision screening for junior and senior kindergarten children will not be offered, with the health unit instead promoting OHIP-covered optometrist visits for kids.

Oral health screening will be delayed and the fluoride varnish program cancelled this year. Those programs may be offered out of the Port Hope and Lindsay offices in the new year.

Hepatitis B, HPV, and meningococcal vaccinations for Grade 7 and 8 students will not be provided in the schools, instead “the health unit is offering immunization clinics, as well, these vaccines have been made available to health-care providers across our region through our regular vaccine order process,” Noseworthy’s report states.

This year, the health unit won’t be enforcing school suspensions for students who are not up to date on their vaccinations, though they will be sending out notices for those students missing mandatory immunizations as outlined in the Immunization for School Pupils Act.

Health unit staff give insight into contact tracing

by JENN WATT
Editor

While the task of COVID-19 case and contact management may be complicated and time consuming for staff at the local health unit, it’s also an emotional job, the board of health heard at their meeting on Nov. 19.

Registered dietitian Kimberly Leadbeater outlined the process of case management for the group, starting with the positive coronavirus test, through contact tracing, and monitoring the self-isolation process.

“When we’re reaching out to clients to tell them that they have tested positive for COVID-19 or they are high-risk contacts, they’re not happy to get that phone call, as you can imagine,” Leadbeater said.

She gave examples of some of the scenarios public health workers could encounter, including those worried about the virus and about coping while self-isolated; those feeling guilty for having potentially infected others with COVID-19; and those who are angry about the restrictions being placed on them, especially if they have not yet tested positive for the virus, but are someone else’s high-risk contact.

Asked by a board member how the team is faring, Leadbeater said that the work can be intense. She said she has dreamt about work and has personally had a more difficult time getting it out of her mind when she’s not at the office. Resources to deal with stress have been made available for staff.

Leadbeater said that COVID-19 case management has broken down the silos

“
They’re not happy to get that phone call, as you can imagine

— KIMBERLY LEADBEATER

that once existed at the health unit, as staff from different departments have come together.

“It was a very steep learning curve for ... a lot of people because some of the work was traditionally thought of to be just solely the work of the public health nurse and now you have dietitians, dental hygienists and health promoters and in some cases public health inspectors doing this type of work. So, a bit of a learning curve,” she said.

When someone is identified as testing positive for COVID-19, health unit staff will make contact and determine what symptoms, complications, risk factors and what supports may be required. Questions are asked to determine who they have come in contact with while infected, they are told what is expected of them by law, and what the health unit can do to assist them while isolated.

In the third quarter, the health unit staff dealt with 48 cases with 178 high-risk contacts and 49 low-risk contacts.



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Ice racing takes a green flag from Kin Club

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

A 43-year winter tradition in Minden will continue, pending approval by the township.

Kin Club lifetime member Tom Prentice Sr. said an agreement was made between the service club and a group consisting of DriveTeq and SportCUP Incorporated, which is a subsidiary of the Russ Bond Agency.

Prentice said having ice racing continue this year is great for the community. Earlier this year, racing organizer Canadian Automobile Sport Clubs (CASC) pulled out because of COVID-19.

Prentice didn't divulge terms, but said, "It's going to bring in less money, but it'll be some money. It will be some financial help for the Kin Club and it will be some money brought into the town."

Before this agreement there was a concern that if they didn't have an ice racing season it might not return in 2022.

"Nobody wants to see this series after 40 some years in Minden die," he said.

The Kin Club will proceed with the building of the skid pad and the ice track next month when the weather is suitable.

Russ Bond, owner of the Russ Bond Agency, said there are two other non-sanctioned CASC ice race tracks in Ontario, but Minden's was the group's first choice for the six-week season, starting in January.

"I like Minden. I like the people there. I like the social aspect. I like going there. It seems that it's still a really nice town where people still say hello to you when you walk down the street. Everybody comes together and this is a fun part of the winter, watching

these cars on the ice. I thought it was a good idea to keep it going. At least make a stab at trying to keeping it going. If it was cost prohibitive or whatever the obstacles might be, at least we tried and so luckily we're able to come to an agreement with the [Kin Club] and Tom Prentice. I got to say during the whole negotiations were fantastic," he said.

He adds the discussions that were held were focused on how to make it happen instead of how it won't.

The popularity of summer and winter racing was making a comeback and losing ice racing this winter would have ended that trend.

Bond said he remembers how after a decade away from racing that the numbers of racers were far lower than when he competed in the 1990s. Efforts such as novice program by CASC and his own racing series that enables racers without cars to rent from his fleet of Lexuses would have been for naught.

"I think it would be extremely difficult to get it going again next year because I don't think you'd have the entries. I don't think people would have the cars. I don't think it would get going again and that would be a terrible thing not only for regional GT racing and ice racing and car racing, but also for the [town]," he said.

From his perspective, the revenue from offering driving lessons is important because it is a large part of their business.

Safety is important to this operation.

"We don't want to be perceived as bringing COVID-19 from the city up to Minden. That's not what we're interested in. We want to be good partners, good neighbours. We want to make sure it's done in a safe way," he said.

COVID-19 protocols will be in place for the driving school on Friday and the racing on Saturday with the two classes, the DriveTeq Winter Challenge and the Minden Ice Challenge.

Virtually everything will be contactless.

Registration for racing will be performed online. Upon arrival, racers must show identification. As of now, people from a "travel restricted area" or "travel advisory" area are not permitted to register. This does not include people from Toronto or Peel, who are not under a strict lockdown as of press time.

Masks will be worn at all times except in the pit area, which is spaced 10 feet apart from others. Washrooms will be cleaned by a paid person, which will be performed every two hours. Food can be purchased at the track, but only as takeout. Some of the other measures includes limiting the fields on Saturday to 34. Bond acknowledges this can change with how the situation related to COVID-19 remains fluid. As of now, Bond said he is discouraging spectators, but recognizes the venue is a public facility and will be difficult to restrict access.

DriveTeq is well-versed in executing COVID-19 protocols. These measures have already been implemented earlier this year at three other Canadian tracks: Canadian Tire Motorsports Park, Le Circuit Mont Tremblant and Calabogie Motorsport Park.

He adds many drivers are older than 20 much like himself at 58, who are careful and vulnerable to contracting COVID-19.

"You couldn't pay me enough to go to downtown Toronto," he said.

Bond said he welcomes the CASC to return to organizing this race next year because of how many challenges there are with put-

“
Everybody comes together and this is a fun part of the winter, watching these cars on the ice.
— RUSS BOND

”
ting on a season of racing related to more than just the COVID-19 requirements, but the typical work to receive approvals, timing and lighting equipment for races and finding paid staff, who are skilled and experienced. The CASC, which has the advantage as an established body, is really good at running races, he adds. The ice race director Steve Manol will bring his expertise from the past two years of leadership to help Bond with this season.

In addition to Bond's groups, there is the Ian Law Car Control School, which had already secured its place at the Minden Fairgrounds earlier in the year.

Little stands in the way of this racing season now.

"The only thing that can squash it would be if the township said no we don't agree with those COVID things," Prentice said.

Note: As of press time Minden Hills did not respond to requests for confirmation of the approval to use the Minden Fairgrounds by the DriveTeq and SportCUP Incorporated group.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: Devries
Lot 10, Concession 4, Boshkung Lake
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 10, Concession 40, Boshkung Lake, in the geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 10, Concession 4, Boshkung Lake, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: THAT part of the original shore road allowance in front of Lot 10, Concession 4, described as Parts 1 and 2 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-10399.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the **10th day of December, 2020** and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council

PLEASE NOTE: The office is currently closed to the public. Any person wishing to speak to this matter must contact the Planner to register and obtain further information.

Dated: November 25th, 2020

Sean O'Callaghan
Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca



PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: Cekrezi
Lot 2, Concession 10, Kushog Lake
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 2, Concession 10, Kushog Lake, in the geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 2, Concession 10, Kushog Lake, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: THAT part of the original shore road allowance in front of Lot 2, Concession 10, described as Part 1 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-10404.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the **10th day of December, 2020** and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

PLEASE NOTE: The office is currently closed to the public. Any person wishing to speak to this matter must contact the Planner to register and obtain further information.

Dated: November 25th, 2020

Sean O'Callaghan
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Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca

Additional funding available for businesses

Businesses needing financial support now have access to additional loan dollars through the Haliburton County Development Corporation, which announced on Nov. 23 \$560,000 was available from the Government of Canada through the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund.

With the second installment of funding, more than \$1.5 million has been made available locally.

The Regional Relief and Recovery Fund helps those who may not be eligible for other funding and since May, more than 1,000 businesses in the region have received assistance.

HCDC is offering loans to businesses of up to \$40,000 at zero per cent interest.

"Through RRRF we are pleased to be able to provide additional critical support to those small businesses adversely affected by COVID-19," said Peter Smith, HCDC board chair. "Through our partnership with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) we are able to provide much needed capital to those businesses who are unable to access current government subsidies."

Earlier this year, Haliburton Guitar Studio was able to access relief funding through HCDC, which provided working capital, allowing them to expand services and provide online offerings.

"They have also been able [to expand] their markets and have more clients now than before the pandemic," information from HCDC reads.

The business offers private lessons, in-house recording, consultation and talent booking, video and music live-streaming services.

“

Through RRRF we are pleased to be able to provide additional critical support to those small businesses adversely affected by COVID-19.

— PETER SMITH, HCDC BOARD CHAIR

”

To date, HCDC has provided \$948,000, supporting 31 businesses affected by the pandemic, covering operating costs and maintaining 72 jobs.

For specific details on the loans available, go to www.haliburtoncdc.ca or call 705-457-3555.

Staff

MP to hold referendum on update to MAID legislation

by JENN WATT
Editor

Local MP Jamie Schmale is asking constituents to weigh in on Bill C-7, which changes medical assistance in dying, or MAID, legislation. The proposed revisions are in response to a court ruling that part of the legislation which required that the patient's natural death would be "reasonably foreseeable" was unconstitutional. The government was given a deadline of Dec. 18 to change the law.

All households in the riding are to receive information in the mail in the coming weeks outlining the proposed changes and both sides of the argument, Schmale said in a press release. The ballots can be mailed back to the MP's office or scanned and emailed. Additional ballots for those who did not receive one, are available upon request.

Schmale said the timeline before the third reading of the

bill may be short and that only ballots received before the vote will be counted. He said he would vote according to the majority of ballots received.

"I encourage my constituents to return their ballot as soon as possible after they receive it," he said. "I can only base my decision on the ballots I have received before the final vote in the House of Commons, and that could come at any time."



NOTICE Fees and Charges

NOTICE is hereby provided that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands intends to consider amending Comprehensive Fees and Charges By-Law 2020-21 at its regular meeting to be held on Thursday, December 10, 2020.

NOTE: As a result of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, as well as the requirements for social distancing, Council Meetings will be conducted electronically via web conference until further notice. We thank the public for their understanding as we work toward keeping our community safe and healthy in this uncertain time.

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link. The live-stream link can be found in the Regular Meeting Notice posted on the Township's website under the News and Notices at www.algonquinhighlands.ca

Dated: November 25th, 2020

Dawn Newhook
Municipal Clerk
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
T: 705-489-2379 Ext. 333
E: dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca

Community Events

Send your events listing to
Pat Lewis at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Environment Haliburton AGM

When: Wed. Dec. 2, 7 p.m.

Where: via ZOOM Please email info@
environmenthaliburton.org to register

What: Kevin Skerrett will talk about connections between COVID-19, for profit long term care, the climate emergency and public sector pension funds. AGM business meeting to follow. Free.

For more info contact Susan Hay at 705-457-9239

Ryan Vanlieshout in the Main Hall

Presented by Royal Canadian Legion Branch
129-Haliburton

When: Saturday, Dec. 12,

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Haliburton Legion, Main Hall

Cost: \$10

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9	8	7	4	5	6	1	2	3
5	6	3	8	1	2	4	7	9
1	4	2	3	7	9	5	8	6



NOTICE December and January Council Meeting Dates

NOTE: As a result of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, as well as the requirements for social distancing, Council Meetings will be conducted electronically via web conference until further notice. We thank the public for their understanding as we work toward keeping our community safe and healthy in this uncertain time.

TAKE NOTICE that Council Meetings are reduced to one meeting per month during the months of December and January, to be held electronically via webcast on the following dates:

- Thursday December 10, 2020 – 9:00 AM
- Thursday, January 21, 2021 – 9:00 AM

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link. The live-stream link can be found in the Regular Meeting Notice posted on the Township's website under the News and Notices at www.algonquinhighlands.ca

Dated this 25th day of November, 2020.

Dawn Newhook, Clerk
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
Tel: (705) 489-2379
dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca

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Bruce Armstrong
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Peacefully at Haliburton Hospital on Friday morning, November 6, 2020 in his 100th year. Beloved husband of the late Anna Kane (1992) & Hazel "Velma" Richardson (2008). Beloved companion of Jacqueline Metcalf. Loving father of Derek Armstrong and Nancy Walker. Fondly remembered by his grandchildren Jake (Breana), Jesse, Liam and by his great grandchildren Sloan and Silas. Predeceased by his son Neil (1982) and by his brother Philip and his sister Emily.

Private Graveside Service & Memorial Service

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a Private Memorial Service will take place at the HALIBURTON UNITED CHURCH, on Friday morning, November 27, 2020 at 11 o'clock. For those who wish to attend virtually, you may do so by clicking the following link https://www.youtube.com/user/hwellesmorgan/featured?view_as=public on the day of Service. Please be sure to log-in up to 5 minutes prior to the start of the service. Interment Minesing Union Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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Monday, November 23, 1987

Property is 'volatile asset': FOCA

Taxation based on market value could be a key issue in next November's municipal elections as Ontario's cottagers band together to swin municipalities away from this form of tax base.

At its annual meeting, November 14 in Scarborough, the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) encouraged its member organizations to fight for an alternative tax base that will take into account people's ability to pay. FOCA represents more than 500,000 members in 300 cottage associations.

Market value assessment "is a big grey area" said FOCA president Jean Anthon who has a cottage in Haliburton County.

Contacted after the meeting last week, she said people really do not understand the issues. FOCA will be pressing the government to provide information that will help people understand.

Haliburton County has already asked for an impact study on tax assessment based on full market value assessment, which causes some concern that local ratepayers could be faced with the upheaval that Muskoka Lakes ratepayers are now experiencing.

Because property values can rise drastically with the pressures of a booming economy, population trends and general attitudes, Anthon feels it is not wise to base municipal tax on such a "volatile asset."

Cottage owners can find that the value of their property is skyrocketing with these outside pressures. And when a reassessment is conducted, their taxes rise in proportion, regardless of their ability to pay. In

(more on page 13)



The HHSS Redmen were in hot pursuit of their first win this season but fell short as St. Peters scored in the dying minutes. See page 11 for details.

County opposes mandatory bilingualism

When Haliburton County residents go to the polls for the 1988 municipal elections, they may also be casting a vote on mandatory bilingualism in Ontario.

After hearing a presentation from Rolland Ormerod from the Alliance for the Preservation of English in Canada (APEC) at last Wednesday's meeting, County Council passed a resolution asking for a referendum on the issue of mandatory bilingualism during the municipal elections.

APLC, a nationwide lobby group, was formed a number of years ago to address the growing trend toward mandatory requirements for all government services to be provided in both official languages. The group is not anti-French, but does oppose mandatory bilingualism.

Implementation of Bill 8, which deals with official bilingualism for Ontario, would come at a frightening cost to taxpayers, council heard. Ormerod estimated that implementation would cost about \$150 million. In addition, he estimated that an extra 2,000 employees would be required to carry the Bill through, at an extra cost of \$200 to \$300 million per year.

In its resolution, council recognizes the "growing concerns to increased mandatory bilingualism" and asks that all residents of voting age be given the opportunity to voice their opinion. The resolution asks Minister of Municipal Affairs, John Eakins to include a referendum on this issue in the next municipal elections.

Road work to be held over

With winter weather closing in, it is unlikely that the reconstruction project on Bobcaygeon Road will be completed this year.

Anson, Hinson and Minden Roads Superintendent Clayton Cameron said the project's schedule is dependent on weather conditions. He anticipates the work will be completed on the section between the Gull River Bridge and Deep Bay Road this year and the rest will have to wait until the spring.

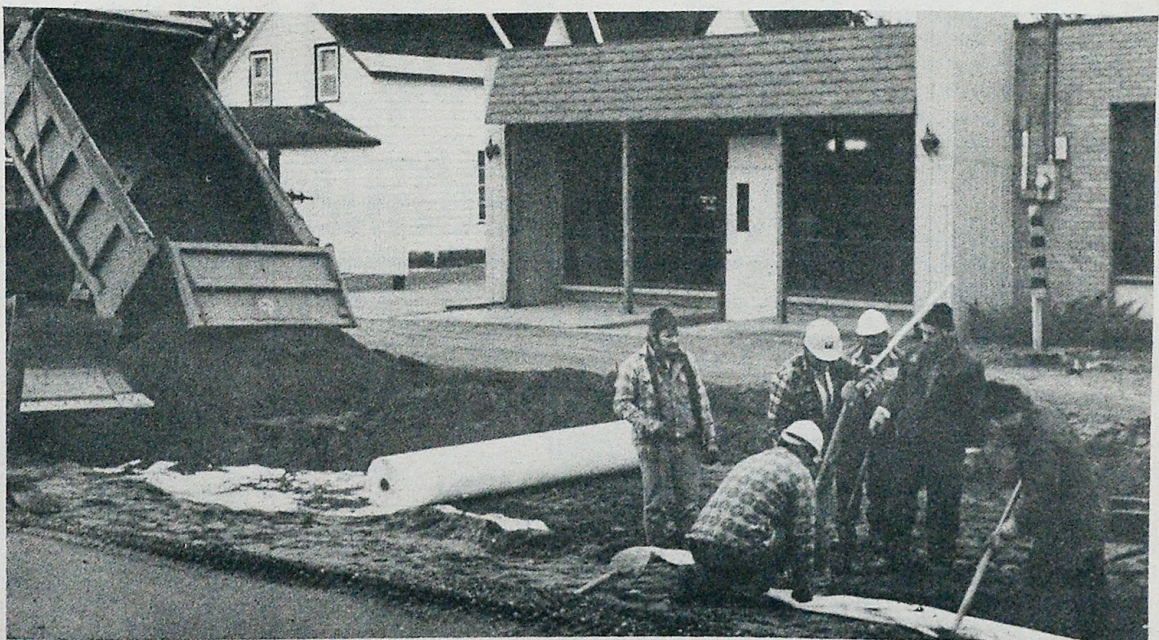
Before construction halts this winter, paving will be completed as far along as the Deep Bay Road. The sidewalks and storm sewer will be in place as far up the road as the school and library. Asphalt will be replaced on all areas of the road that have been stripped before work stops.

The reconstruction of the 800 metre strip of roadway hit a snag last

week when it was discovered that water in the sub-soil was being

pumped back up through the new mesh which has been laid. To prevent this,

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Workmen lay a filter cloth on the road construction site to prevent water from seeping back to the surface.



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705-457-0306

County Road 21 \$750,000

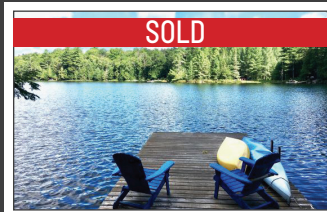
- Commercial property in Haliburton
- Prime corner location, 1.5 acres
- Rental house as an added feature
- Sale includes land, & building



Drew Bishop**
Kristin Bishop**
457-2128 x23

NEW LISTING Little Kennis Lake \$919,000

- Updated year-round oasis on a stunning lot
- Renovated in 2020 with open concept living
- Walkouts on both levels and 4 bedrooms to accommodate family & friends!



Dagmar Boettcher**
457-5968

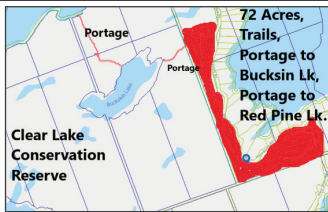
- 900 s.f. 3 season elevated cottage
- 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom
- Natural lot with 50+ stairs to lake



Andy Campbell
854-0292

NEW LISTING Inukshuk Trail \$450,000

- Popular 3 lake chain
- Winterized cottage
- Vintage 1960's



Gloria Carnochan*
754-1932

West Shore Rd Kennis Lk \$279,000

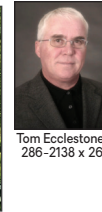
- 72 ac of forest /trails, also trail 2 Buckskin
- Portage 2 Redpine Lk, for canoe routes
- Snowmobiling, ATVing, biking, horse riding



Mark Denny**
457-0473

Kennis Lk 4-Season Ctg \$999,900

- 100 Ft Wtrfrnt, 0.94 Acr, NW Exp.
- Clean, Sandy Shoreline, Big Lk Views
- Turnkey, New Renos/Upgrades
- Single Car Garage



Tom Ecclestone*
286-2138 x 26

Gull River Minden \$399,000

- 2 self contained 3 season cottages
- 235' of mixed shoreline, great swimming
- Just minutes to Minden or Big Gull Lake
- Excellent weekly rental income



Lindsay Elder**
457-5878

Brady Lake \$799,900

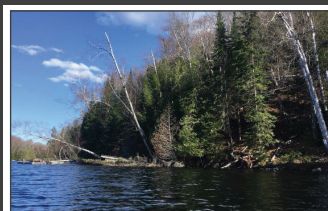
- Main house and guest cottage – both winterized
- Ultimate privacy with million dollar views!
- Over 200 feet of waterfront
- Renovations galore!



Andrew Hodgson***
286-2138 x 29

NEW LISTING Kinmount Acreage \$350,000

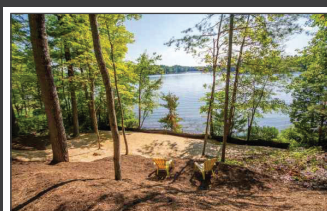
- Large acreage with the ultimate privacy
- Off-grid location with driveway installed
- 300 acres with trails throughout
- Less than 2 hours from the GTA!



Susanne James**
& Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 33

Long Lake Lot \$199,900

- Vacant lot with 100 feet of shoreline, approx. 1 acre
- 2-lake chain with Miskwabi Lake for miles of boating
- Year-round private road access



David Lee*
286-2138 x 27

Gull Lake \$529,000

- Large private waterfront lot on a premium lake
- 3.2 Acres, 240' of waterfrontage, level building site
- Hardpacked sand, shallow entry, cleaned and ready to build!



Donna McCallum*
455-2054

Commercial Opportunity \$599,000

- Two parcels zoning 59 acres, 5 acres zoned commercial highway, 54 zoned disposal industrial
- Modern 3-bedroom, 2 bath home
- Approx. 7000 sq ft of space between 2 shops



Brandon Nimigon*
457-2128 x 27

SOLD Haliburton Village \$300,000

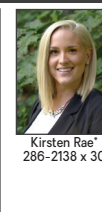
- 2-Bedroom, 1 bath home, COMPLETELY renovated in 2020
- Right in downtown Haliburton, great starter or retirement location



Karen Nimigon**
457-6505

Industrial Park Road \$799,000

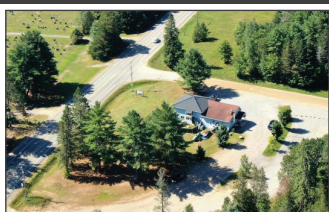
- 5000 Sq Ft building in Haliburton
- Large, open space, concrete floor
- Private location, fenced & gated
- Ideal for contractors or manufacturing



Kirsten Rae*
286-2138 x 30

Industrial Park Rd \$1,200,000

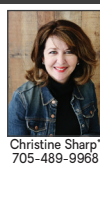
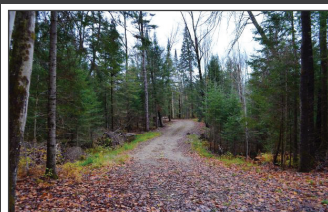
- 10,000 sq ft of mixed use industrial and commercial space
- Sitting on a private 6.75 acre lot in Haliburton
- Unlimited possibilities with this fantastic building!



Darlene Reil*
447-2055

Gooderham \$380,000

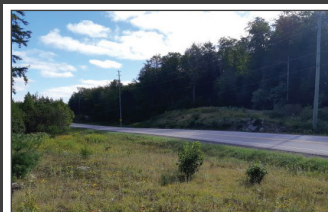
- Huge 3000 sq.ft. building
- With 2-bedroom apartment
- With multiple uses potential



Christine Sharp*
705-469-9968

Harburn Road \$114,400

- Privacy plus, 4.66 acres
- Driveway in
- Septic approved



Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 28

County Road 21 \$179,000

- Acreage close to Haliburton Village & Pinestone Resort
- Beautifully Treed with driveway already installed.
- Ultimate privacy for residential use!



Melanie Vigras*
286-2138 x 32

Davis Lake Rd \$229,900

- 12 Acres, 500 ft from public access to Davis Lk
- Ideal building site overlooks pond on Crown Land
- Hydro & Bell at lot line



Lindsay Wilkinson*
286-2138 x 23

Bushwolf Lake \$1,345,000

- Over 750 acres of wilderness to explore
- Over 9000 feet of waterfront on Bushwolf Lake
- Your only limit is your own imagination



Andrea Wilson**
457-2128 x 25

Haliburton Home \$419,000

- Newer 3-bedroom, 2 bath home with good access to town & across from the rail trail
- Nicely finished, open concept living space and fully finished lower level

We are open for business! Our client's health remains our primary concern. Our REALTORS will be following certain protocols to ensure our clients safety. Contact us to learn more about our updated practices.

PROUDLY PART OF THE HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY!
CENTURY 21 Granite Realty Group Ltd. BROKERAGE

Haliburton 705-457-2128 | Minden 705-286-2138 | Carnarvon 705-489-9968 | Kennis Lake 705-754-1932

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